

MEMPHIS APPEAL  
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1866.

The statement of a correspondent of the New York *Herald* that the *editors* of Memphis united in a petition, urging upon the President to retain a negro prisoner here, is news to us. The editor of this paper has never heard of such a petition, which must unite it.

We repeat to state that Col. R. F. Dill, whose long and severe illness has excited so much interest among his numerous friends, is yet in a critical condition. He is at Forest Hill under the hospital roof of Prof. MILLER, and his exerted every day, where he receives every attention that affection and friendship can bestow.

**THE MILITARY.**—It is but sheer justice to Maj.-Gen. J. E. SMITH, and the officers under him, to say that their watchful, sleepless vigilance and unshaken devotion, in the important duties which devolved upon them during the Christmas holidays. We have no animosity against these gentlemen, but we rejoice over their success. The New York *Times* is base to believe, that this paragraph is prompted solely by base Justice now, and an agency of preserving order, which we are very solicitous to substitute by the unchanged way of Civil Law.

**THE LOAD-STONE OF MEMPHIS.**—It has grown into a proverb, that if you once get hold of it, you will never let it go. The truth in this proverb, as there is in most of them; but what is the precise analysis of this truth, it would not be so easy to explain. Memphis always had an attraction for me, and I have often wished to return to it in its character. One can readily understand why the Parthenon should be Paris in the eyes of all other cities—central point of the civilization, and source of wealth in which may be found the highest and the lowest aspirations of humanity. So we can imagine the Florentines, nurtured beneath the soft skies of Tuscany, yearning ever to return to the contemplation and enjoyment of the marvels of Art which enriched their native land. It is to the worshippers of past, and patriotic, and a very patriotic to the seekers after the enjoyment in merely sordid life.

But Memphis—gorgeously beautiful as are her streets, squares, palaces, and landmarks—has none of these attractions. She is a city of wealth, but devoid of wealth—has none of those—nor of women—who are the daughters of the university of the Persian capital, nor the all-conquerors of the Italian City. And yet “if you once get your foot fairly into the mud of Memphis, you will never get it out.” Who once gets it, stays it.

“The President, it is stated, is so weakly prostrated by disease, that he will require a valuable horse service for his recovery.” How dastay. A true rifle, in the hands of a pike county farmer, laid him low.

**Passports.**—Have been made out at the State Department for Mr. Seward, his daughter, Col. Clarence A. Tracy, and wife, with Mr. Robinson, confidential messenger at the State Department, to visit foreign parts.

**THE PRESIDENT.**—It is stated, is so weakly prostrated by disease, that he will require a valuable horse service for his recovery.

**THE ALABAMA VAGABON AD.**—A rebel agent in Canada has made affidavit that the steamer Georgia, on the lakes, was the property of the Confederate Government, and intended for a raid on Johnson's Island.

**THE STATE CENSUS OF NEW YORK.**—For eighteen hundred and sixty-five shows a population of 3,831,777. The Federal census for eighteen hundred and sixty shows a population of 3,899,727. Decrease in five years, 45,956.

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